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Commission for Social Development
Thirty-sixth session
10-20 February 1998
Agenda item 6

Adoption of the report of the Commission

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Mathe **Diseko** (South Africa)

Chapter ___. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its thirty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 20 February 1998. The Commission held __ meetings (1st to __) and a number of informal meetings.

B. Attendance

2. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, the Commission is composed of 46 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

3. The session was attended by ___ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and representatives of specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also attended. A list of participants is given in annex ___ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 10 February 1998, the Commission elected by acclamation Mr. Aurelio Fernandez (Spain) as Chairman.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Commission elected the following officers:

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Faith Innerarity (Jamaica)
Ms. Maria Lourdes Ramiro-Lopez (Philippines)
Ms. Joanna Wronecka (Poland)
Mr. Mathe Diseko (South Africa)

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 February 1998, the Commission elected Mr. Mathe Diseko (South Africa) as Vice-Chairman cum Rapporteur by acclamation.

D. Agenda

7. At its 1st meeting, on 10 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda for the session

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(E/CN.5/1998/1 and Corr.1) (see annex ___ to the present report).

E. Organization of work

8. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work of the session (see E/CN.5/1998/L.1/Rev.1).

F. Opening statements

9. At its 1st meeting, on 10 February, the Commission heard an opening statement by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Ion Gorita (Romania).

10. At the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

G. Documentation

11. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-sixth session are listed in annex ___ to the present report.

H. Special presentations

12. At its 1st meeting, on 10 February, the Commission held a special presentation on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. Presentations were made by the following: Mr. Yang Qinqwei (China), Mr. Reinaldo Ruiz (Chile), Mr. Ernst Sucharipa (Austria), Mr. K. J. Hlkuama-Mupaine (Namibia) and Mrs. Marcella Maria Nicodemos (Brazil).

13. At its 9th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission also held a special presentation which was made by Mr. Torben Brylle (Denmark).

14. At its 10th meeting, on 18 February, the Commission heard a presentation by Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Panel discussions and dialogue

Panel discussion I. Participation and social justice

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 10 February, Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, acted as moderator.

16. The following panel members addressed the Commission:

Dr. Marju Lauristin, University of Tartu, Estonia;

Mr. Jaime Joseph, Centro Alternativa, Peru;

Dr. Hussein M. Adam, Holy Cross College, Massachusetts, United States of America;

Dr. Suchitra Punjararatabandhu, National Institute of Development Administration, Thailand.

17. Members of the Commission held a general exchange of views with the panel members.

Panel discussion II. Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability

18. Mr. Aurelio Fernandez (Spain), Chairman of the Commission, acted as moderator.

19. The following panel members addressed the Commission:

Dr. Vappu Taipale, Director-General, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland;

Dr. Meryl James-Sebro, Director, First Works International (NGO), Trinidad and Tobago;

Dr. John D'Mello, Professor of Sociology and Theology, St. Pius College, Bombay, India;

Dr. Anna Maria de Frappola, Head, Inter-American Organization, Uruguay.

20. Members of the Commission held a general exchange of views with the panel members.

Non-governmental organizations dialogue segment

21. At its 5th meeting, on 12 February, the Commission held a non-governmental organizations dialogue. The following made presentations:

American Association of Retired Persons;

International Council on Social Welfare;

Zambia NGO Coordinating Committee;

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions;

Pax Christi International;

Social Watch.

22. At its 11th meeting, on 18 February, the Commission held another non-governmental organization dialogue segment. The following made presentations:

Rotary International;

Caritas Internationalis;

Norwegian Federation of Disabled Persons' Organizations;

International Council on Social Welfare;

Environmental Development in the Third World.

I. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

23. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements:

[To be completed]

24. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex ___ to the present report.